

Weekly Bible Reading – Week 18

- ◆ Sun — Gal 1:1 – 2:21
- ◆ Mon — Gal 3:1 – 4:20
- ◆ Tue — Gal 4:21 – 6:5
- ◆ Wed — Gal 6:6 – Eph 2:10
- ◆ Thu — Eph 2:11 – 4:16
- ◆ Fri — Eph 4:17 – 5:33
- ◆ Sat — Eph 6:1 – Php 1:18

Those For Whom We Should Pray

Jo Byrnes • Joyce Coones • Sleatha Gore • Evelyn Griffin • Essielene Henderson • Faye Kilpatrick • Sally Smith
Gary Ogden • Allen Jamerson (Frank & Joyce Jamerson's youngest son) • Woody Story family

Traveling

The Byrnes are still in Texas. And we still have some others out of town because of the extended Thanksgiving holiday week. We pray they have a safe return trip. And for those visiting with us today, we're happy you're here!

This Week's Birthday

Sue Clyatt (Thursday)

Chiefland Church of Christ

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in beautiful Chiefland, Florida
Post Office Box 2539, Chiefland FL 32644 · (352) 493-1242

THINGS ABOVE

“If then you were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth”

— [Colossians 3:1–2] —

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The Key to Contentment

By Bill Hall

Two Men ... Articles on Practical Christian Living (1998) pp. 109–111

And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content,” the apostle said (1 Timothy 6:8); the Lord may never have given a command harder for twentieth century Christians to obey.

The secret to contentment can be seen in the beautiful character of Ruth. Far away from home and with few provisions, she did not complain, but rather determined to pursue the one available means of providing for herself and her mother-in-law — the lowly, but legitimate task of gleaning. Commenting on Ruth's decision, *Pulpit Commentary* says this of Ruth: “when she could not lift up her circumstances to her mind she brought down her mind to her circumstances.”

She brought down her mind your circumstances! There is the key. If I can't afford a Cadillac, then I need to bring my mind down to be thankful for the Reliant that I do drive; if I can't afford to eat out three times a week, then I need to bring my mind down to enjoy the occasional dining out that I can afford; if I can't afford \$150 worth of long-distance phone calls per month, then I must be grateful that there is still a Postal Service and bring my mind down to writing letters. And so with the clothing I wear, the house I live in, the recreation I enjoy, etc.

We do not find happiness or godliness in looking longingly at what everybody else can afford; we find only misery and ingratitude. We do not have to look far to find wives who are unhappy with the circumstances their husbands can afford; or children who feel the deprived because of the circumstances their parents can afford; or preachers who are miserable and looking to other employment because of their discontent with the salaries churches are able or willing to pay. While we acknowledge that there is a line below which one cannot live comfortably, for most of these, happiness is in reach. They need only to bring their minds down to their circumstances.

Let no one think that such contentment comes automatically. Paul said that he had *learned* in "whatever state I am, to be content" (Philippians 4:10–13). And he learned that lesson well. He could "bring his mind down" to circumstances that would include Roman prison and wants that needed to be supplied. He could be content when full or when hungry,

when abounding or when suffering need. Paul's contentment under such circumstances makes us ashamed of our own discontent; and when he speaks of the true source of his contentment, he brings us to question our own spirituality: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

So whether we be rich or poor this world's goods, let us turn to the Lord, learn through him to bring our minds down to our circumstances, and thereby discover how truly rich we really are ... and then be content. Let us experience the realization that "godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6).



Thanksgiving Day Quotations

*T*hanksgiving Day comes, by statute, once a year; to the honest man it comes as frequently as the heart of gratitude will allow.

—[Edward Sandford Martin]—

*A*s we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

—[John Fitzgerald Kennedy]—

*T*hanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude.

—[E. P. Powell]—